

- any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 18-1171.

Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following amendment and remarks.

Please amend the above referenced application as follows:

In the specification:

On page 6, please amend the third paragraph as follows:

"These aims and others which will become apparent subsequently are achieved by means of an isocyanate composition comprising both a masked isocyanate compound and a nonmasked cycloaliphatic isocyanate compound and the use of said composition as ingredient of a coating, advantageously in the powder form.

On page 6, between lines 13 and 14, please add the following new paragraph:

(New) The masked isocyanate compound exhibits an aliphatic backbone which comprises, in said backbone, at least one di- or polymethylene linkage. The masked isocyanate compound results from a polymethylene diisocyanate monomer, from one of the (co)oligomers of the latter or from one of its (co)oligocondensates. The polymethylene diisocyanate monomer is tetra-, penta- or hexamethylene diisocyanate, substituted at the most once. The (co)oligomers or (co)oligocondensates comprise at least one imidazolidinedione, isocyanuric, biuret, allophanate or polyol carbamate functional group."

Please amend the third paragraph of page 9 as follows:

"This is the case with the monomers which exhibit polymethylene  $(CH_2)_\pi$  linkages. where  $\pi$  represents an integer from 2 to 10, advantageously from 4 to 8. These polymethylene linkages result in excellent mechanical properties. In addition, it is desirable for at least one, preferably all, these linkages to be free to rotate and thus exocyclic."

Please amend the paragraph from page 11, line 22 to page 12, line 2, as follows:

"These monomers are advantageously such that at least one, advantageously both, isocyanate functional groups are distant from the closest ring by at most one carbon and preferably is connected directly to it. In addition, these cycloaliphatic monomers advantageously exhibit at least one, preferably two, isocyanate functional groups chosen from secondary, tertiary or neopentyl isocyanate functional groups."

Please amend the paragraph from page 14, line 25 to page 15, line 2, as follows:

"2.5 to 3 ml of 1,2-dichlorobenzene (solvent) the equivalent of 1-octanol (5 mmol, i.e. 0.61 g, and optionally with the catalyst to be tested with the masking group) are added."

Please amend the second paragraph of page 15 as follows:

"The reaction medium is subsequently brought to the test temperature. Heating is then carried out for 6 h at the test temperature, so as to deblock and thus render reactive the isocyanate functional groups. On completion of the reaction, the solvent is removed by vacuum distillation and the residue is analyzed by NMR, mass and infrared."